

National Agricultural Summary

August 14 - 20, 2000

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Hot, dry weather stressed maturing row crops, but aided harvest progress in the Southeast, lower Mississippi Valley, and Great Plains. In the Corn Belt, below-normal temperatures slightly limited crop development, but helped maintain crop conditions, despite increasing

moisture shortages. The small grain harvest continued with few delays in the northern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Seasonal temperatures benefited row crops in California. Cool weather and adequate moisture supplies aided crops along the Atlantic Coastal Plains.

Corn: Seventy-seven percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage and 40 percent was dented. Development remained slightly ahead of last year, when 76 percent was at or beyond the dough stage and 36 percent was dented. Both stages were more than 1 week ahead of their 5-year averages of 60 and 22 percent, respectively. Above-normal temperatures stimulated crop development in the central and southern Great Plains. Eighteen percent entered the dough stage in Colorado, and 16 percent reached the dent stage in Kansas. In Texas, 59 percent was mature and 49 percent was harvested. In the Corn Belt, fields rapidly developed, in spite of cooler-than-normal temperatures in many areas. In Iowa, 20 percent entered the dough stage and 22 percent reached the dent stage during the week. Across the northern Corn Belt, from Wisconsin to South Dakota, more than 20 percent of the acreage entered the dough stage. Corn dented progressed about 20 percentage points in Indiana, Nebraska, and Tennessee. Conditions rebounded in Minnesota and North Dakota, as rain relieved moisture shortages and mild temperatures reduced moisture requirements. Rain maintained moisture supplies and boosted crop conditions in parts of the Corn Belt, but moisture supplies diminished and conditions slightly deteriorated in most areas.

Soybeans: Ninety-one percent of the acreage was setting pods, slightly ahead of last year's 88-percent pace and more than 1 week ahead of the 80-percent normal for this date. Acreage dropping leaves, at 3 percent, was also ahead of last year and the average for this date. Below-normal temperatures limited development in the northern Great Plains, eastern Corn Belt, and mid-Atlantic Coastal Plains. However, fields rapidly began setting pods in Michigan, Ohio, and North Carolina. Above-normal temperatures accelerated development in the lower Missouri and Mississippi Valleys. In Arkansas and Missouri, pod setting advanced 18 and 12 percentage points, respectively. In Louisiana and Mississippi, 23 and 18 percent, respectively, was dropping leaves. In Kansas, 17 percent was dropping leaves, more than 2 weeks ahead of normal. Conditions deteriorated in the central Great Plains and southern Corn Belt due to moisture shortages and excessive heat. Scattered rains and mild temperatures limited deterioration in the northern and eastern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains. Timely rains boosted conditions in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Cotton: Ninety-six percent of the crop was setting bolls, and bolls were opening on 21 percent of the crop. Acreage setting bolls lagged slightly behind last year, but equaled the 5-year average. Bolls were opening slightly ahead of last year and the

average. Above-normal temperatures stimulated development in most cotton-producing States. In Oklahoma, acreage setting bolls advanced 15 percentage points. Acreage with bolls opening advanced 34 percentage points in Mississippi and 30 percentage points in Louisiana, to 57 and 60 percent, respectively. Fields with bolls opening increased 10 percentage points in Georgia and Tennessee and 12 percentage points in Alabama. Hot weather quickly ripened fields in Arizona. Cool weather hindered progress in North Carolina and Virginia. Conditions deteriorated in the southern Great Plains, interior parts of the Mississippi Delta, and most of the Southeast due to extreme moisture shortages. Rain improved conditions in parts of the Atlantic Coastal Plains.

Small grains: Spring wheat and barley were 66 percent harvested, more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average, and almost 2 weeks ahead of last year's slow pace. Rain delays were brief across the northern Great Plains, slightly limiting progress in isolated parts of North and South Dakota. Harvest continued without rain delays in the Pacific Northwest.

The oat harvest advanced to 87 percent complete, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 12 percentage points ahead of the average for this date. Harvest remained active in the upper Mississippi Valley and northern Great Plains. In Wisconsin, harvest advanced 21 percentage points, despite temporary rain delays. In Pennsylvania, growers harvested nearly one-fourth of their crop during the week, but progress remained behind normal.

Rice: Eighty-six percent of the crop was headed, slightly behind last year and the 5-year average. Nineteen percent was harvested, ahead of last year's 17-percent pace and almost 1 week ahead of the 14-percent average for this date. Hot weather promoted rapid development in Arkansas and Mississippi, although acreage headed lagged behind normal. Seasonal temperatures aided progress in California, where one-fourth of the acreage headed during the week. Harvest rapidly progressed with no rain delays in Louisiana and Texas.

Other crops: Ninety-one percent of the sorghum acreage was headed and 56 percent of the crop was turning color. Development through these stages continued ahead of last year and more than 1 week ahead of the average for this date. Above-normal temperatures accelerated ripening in the lower Mississippi Valley and most of the Great Plains, but conditions deteriorated due to increasing moisture shortages. Peanut conditions deteriorated due to excessive heat and severe moisture shortages.